



CONTACT:
Mitchel Benson, (916) 568-3056
bensonm@losrios.edu
August 22, 2016

**LOS RIOS, WEAVE LAUNCH NEW CONFIDENTIAL
REPORTING PARTNERSHIP FOR SEXUAL ASSAULTS**

SACRAMENTO – The Los Rios Community College District today announced the launch of a new sexual assault awareness, education, confidential reporting and support program in partnership with WEAVE, the region’s widely respected provider of crisis intervention services for survivors of relationship violence and Sacramento County’s sole rape crisis center.

The Los Rios Colleges – American River, Cosumnes River, Folsom Lake and Sacramento City – have long-held procedures in place to support those who report sexual assault, which includes sexual violence, relationship violence and stalking.

Until today, those who wanted to report such assaults could make those reports to the Los Rios Police Department or any of the college’s designated Title IX officers. In addition, all college employees who receive information about sexual assaults are required to forward such reports to their college’s Title IX Officer. College Title IX officers are responsible for the coordination and administration of the District’s policies related to identifying, investigating and combating sex discrimination and sexual harassment.

But today’s announcement creates a third and confidential option: The District has contracted with Sacramento-based WEAVE to make available to the Los Rios Colleges community a trained advocate to provide a wide range of information, support and referrals to students, staff and faculty who want to report sexual assaults confidentially. In the months ahead, the WEAVE Confidential Advocate will also work with Los Rios personnel to prepare and present sexual assault awareness and prevention campaigns throughout the District.

“We are fortunate that few of these assaults and crimes are reported at the Los Rios Colleges, but even one occurrence is too many,” said Los Rios Chancellor Brian King. “With WEAVE as our partner, Los Rios will do a better job of educating our students, staff and faculty about this topic and about preventing such attacks, and we will do a better job of supporting members of the Los Rios community who are reporting them.”

Founded in 1978 as a non-profit, WEAVE is Sacramento County’s primary provider of crisis intervention services for all survivors of intimate partner and sexual violence, regardless of gender identity. WEAVE provides 24/7 response, outreach and assistance to those survivors. At the same time, the District – in coordination with WEAVE – is releasing a new comprehensive 33-page sexual assault

education and resources guide for the Los Rios community. The guide is available online at <http://losrios.edu/legal/sexualassaultguide.pdf>

“We are thrilled to partner with the Los Rios Community College District to expand resources available to students who have experienced sexual assault or intimate partner violence,” said WEAVE CEO Beth Hassett. “We applaud Los Rios for creating an additional option for students in reporting a sexual assault and for being leaders in building a campus system that prioritizes the needs of survivors.”

Among other things, the WEAVE Confidential Advocate will:

- Work a combined 20 hours a week from designated office space at each of the Los Rios Colleges, roving from college to college. The WEAVE Confidential Advocate will also have an email address and cell phone number and be accessible 24/7. The email and phone number access were launched today. The on-campus office hours will begin on September 12.
- Help those who have been sexually assaulted to report the assault to the police or appropriate college Title IX Officer, if the assistance is requested.
- Help those individuals or third parties with information and referrals to medical and counseling services.
- Accompany those individuals to any medical visits, court proceedings or college proceedings, as requested.
- Engage with Los Rios students, faculty, staff and administrators to create and present educational and outreach programs regarding sexual assault and sexual assault prevention.

The WEAVE Confidential Advocate will keep the identity of the reporting party and the contents of the report confidential unless required to disclose it by law. Disclosure is required if the reporting party is a minor, the conduct occurred while he or she was a minor or if a court requires the WEAVE Confidential Advocate to testify. The WEAVE Confidential Advocate will report anonymous data about the report to the college in a way that keeps names and other personal information of the reporting party confidential.

More than 75,000 students take classes at the four main Los Rios Colleges and six education centers. For 2014, the last year for which statistics are available, a total of 23 sex-related crimes were reported on or near Los Rios’ 10 college and educational center campuses under the federal Clery Act: 2 forcible sex offenses; 4 non-forcible sex offenses (incest and statutory rape); 8 reports of domestic violence; 2 reports of dating violence; and 7 reports of stalking.

ABOUT WEAVE Confidential Advocates

California state law provides for a client confidentiality privilege or “confidential communication” between a certified sexual assault/domestic violence counselor/advocate and someone who has reported a sexual assault or domestic violence. To serve as a WEAVE Confidential Advocate assigned to Los Rios, a counselor/advocate must work in a rape crisis center, have completed a combined 68 hours of training in sexual assault and domestic violence and received certificates proving completion of both training programs.

ABOUT LOS RIOS

The Los Rios Community College District is one of the nation’s most respected learning institutions and the second-largest community college district in California, serving the greater Sacramento region. Los

Rios includes: American River, Cosumnes River, Folsom Lake and Sacramento City colleges; six major education and outreach centers; and specialized workforce and economic development programs, for regional businesses, governments and organizations. Los Rios colleges offer AA/AS degrees, certificates and transfer-education opportunities in more than 70 career fields. The District's 2,400 square-mile service area includes all of Sacramento County, most of El Dorado County and parts of Yolo, Placer and Solano counties. More than 75,000 students are enrolled in the four Los Rios Colleges. For more information, go to www.losrios.edu.